

Water Conservation Tips for the NH Lodging Industry

Developed with the NH Lodging & Restaurant Association

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Kitchen

- ❑ Thaw frozen foods in the refrigerator, not under running water, if possible.
- ❑ Purchase a water-efficient dishwasher and wash only full loads.
- ❑ Soak pots and pans before hand-washing them.
- ❑ Cook vegetables with a minimum amount of water and use the cooking water for soup stock, if possible.
- ❑ Train your staff to turn off the water promptly when they are not using it.

Since profits are literally siphoned off daily, in dozens of places, the financial benefits of greater efficiency are obvious: Use less, save more. By combining high-efficiency upgrades with company water-awareness initiatives, even large users can reduce water and sewer expenses by up to 30%. Significant savings in chemical, energy and maintenance costs are also possible. The typical payback period is usually less than three years.

Dining room

- ❑ Ask customers if they would like water instead of automatically serving it.
- ❑ Refrain from dumping large amounts of ice into a sink and using hot water to melt it. Instead, use the ice to water your restaurant's plants.

Guestrooms

- ❑ Consider instituting a "towel and linen" program that asks guests to decide if they wish to have new linens and towels daily.



Towel and linen programs have saved lodging facilities between \$1.50 to \$3.50 per day per room in labor, energy, soap and water expenses.

- ❑ Check for and repair leaks in faucets. To detect leaks in toilets, place a small amount of dark food coloring in the toilet tank. If coloring comes through the tank into the toilet bowl after 20 to 30 minutes, you have a leak.
- ❑ Install water-efficient toilets. Retrofit older toilets that use up to six gallons of water with each flush by filling a gallon container with water and placing it in the tank. The toilet will use a gallon less water each time it is flushed.
- ❑ Install aerators, which conserve water by injecting air into the water stream, in all sinks.

Landscape Irrigation

- ❑ Grouping plants with similar water needs.
- ❑ Scheduling lawn irrigation for specific early morning or evening hours can reduce water wasted due to evaporation during daylight hours.
- ❑ Other practices include the use of low-precipitation-rate sprinklers that have better distribution uniformity, bubbler / soaker systems, or drip irrigation systems (RMI, 1991).

Hotel and Motel Water Use By Activity

